

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anthony M. Rizzo Jr and I am a proud 1984 graduate of Henry Abbott Technical High School. I am the owner, President and CEO of A.M. Rizzo electrical contractors, Inc. and Rizzo Corporation and I support (SB-383). Since my Father (1958 HATS graduate) started the company in 1962 we have supported our technical high schools and they have turned out some of the best trades people we have ever employed. We have had the great fortune to have employed many technical school graduates throughout the years and many of them have transferred into management positions over the years. This could not have been possible without the exceptional training they receive both in the classroom and shop from our technical school system.

I believe very strongly that the Superintendent of the technical high school's must be responsible for the budget and must have the ability to hire faculty as required to ensure that all shops are adequately staffed. We cannot allow the technical school shops to go through a significant amount of time without a qualified instructor. If this pattern continues it will have a very negative effect on the business community. This will prevent the technical schools from recruiting the very best students and giving them the very best training before sending these students into the workplace.

I have personal experience with this. When I was a junior the department head retired and our instructor was promoted. He felt it was important to work with the freshman class during their exploratory period so that they would have the proper information in order to make an educated decision while selecting their shop. I believe he was correct with this decision. Unfortunately this left the juniors without an instructor for the majority of our time in the shop for that school year. I think it's time for everyone to understand that there is a difference between a technical high school and a traditional high school. In a traditional high school, You may be able to cover a classroom with a substitute teacher and have little to no drop off in the lesson plan but the same cannot be said for a

shop instructor. In order to avoid a limited or no lesson plan at all, a shop instructor in a technical high school must have the proper background necessary to teach the class in order to turn out the best qualified students. If this is not done, I'm afraid we will just be filling a seat and offering nothing to the students,

We are doing a tremendous disservice to the students of the technical schools and the business owners that hire them if we go through an entire school year without a qualified instructor in any of our shops. We are better than that!! These students have put their trust in all of us and we need to take that seriously and give them every opportunity to succeed. I ask you to please remember that we are not only developing trades people, we are developing future business and community leaders.

In closing I want to make it clear that I am 100% in favor and support SB-383 and hope that you all do as well. If anyone on the committee has any questions for me please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you,

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